

REMARKS

The Applicant thanks the Examiner for the careful consideration of this application. Claims 1, 3, and 5 are currently pending. Claims 1, 3, and 5, and the specification have been amended. Claims 2 and 4 have been canceled, without prejudice. Based on the foregoing amendments and the following remarks, the Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider all outstanding objections and rejections and that they be withdrawn.

Information Disclosure Statement

The Office Action indicated that the foreign references BA-BE referred to in the Information Disclosure Statement (IDS) filed September 26, 2006 were not considered, because copies of the references were not provided. The Applicant submits herewith a Supplemental IDS citing foreign references BA-BE. A copy of each foreign reference BA-BE is being submitted with the Supplemental IDS. Accordingly, the Applicant requests that foreign references BA-BE be considered by the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office.

Allowable Subject Matter

The Applicant appreciates the Office Action's indication that claim 2 is directed to allowable subject matter. Independent claims 1 and 5 have both been amended to incorporate the subject matter of allowable claim 2.

Claim Objections

The Office Action objected to claim 3 for lacking antecedent basis for “the mixing.” Claim 3 has been amended to remove the word “the” from before “mixing.” Accordingly, the Applicant respectfully requests that this objection be withdrawn.

Objections to the Specification

The Office Action objected to the specification for referring to the claims. The specification has been amended at paragraphs 0013 to 0017 to remove any reference to the claims. Accordingly, the Applicant respectfully requests that this objection be withdrawn.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103

The Office Action rejected claims 1, 3, and 5 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over U.S. Patent No. 5,434,700 to Yoo (“Yoo”) in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,796,902 to Bhat (“Bhat”). Claims 1 and 5 are the independent claims, and they have been amended to include the subject matter of allowable dependent claim 2, now cancelled. Accordingly, the Applicant respectfully submits that claims 1 and 5 are patentable over Yoo and Bhat. Claim 3 depends from claim 1 and is patentable for at least the same reasons. Therefore, the Applicant respectfully requests that this rejection be withdrawn.

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Conclusion

All of the stated grounds of objection and rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicant, therefore, respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider all presently outstanding objections and rejections and that they be withdrawn. Applicant believes that a full and complete reply has been made to the outstanding Office Action and, as such, the present application is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is hereby invited to telephone the undersigned at the number provided.

Prompt and favorable consideration of this Amendment is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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